

CHAPTER 6 – COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

6.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A legal Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* on October 22, 1999 regarding the Vernal Field Office's preparation of an EIS on the RDG Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project. Scoping notification letters were distributed to interested individuals and organizations. Federal, state, and local government and land management agencies received the scoping notification, as did public interest and special interest organizations, businesses, and stakeholders.

A 30-day comment period was held from October 22 to November 22, 1999, during which the public and other stakeholders could provide comments to the VFO about the proposed EIS. The BLM conducted a public scoping and informational open house in Vernal, Utah, on November 18, 1999. Public meetings to discuss the EIS were held in Vernal, Utah, at the VFO on February 14, 16, and 17, 2000. A tour of the project area was conducted on May 9, 2000 to familiarize the stakeholders with the area and to discuss issues and alternatives.

The VFO received numerous letters commenting on the proposed EIS during the scoping period. The contents of these letters may be found in the project administrative record. The issues of concern raised during scoping, including the potential impacts resulting from the project, are summarized in Sections 1.6.1 and 1.6.2 of Chapter 1 of this EIS.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on August 8, 2003. The 45-day comment period was scheduled to end on September 22, 2003, although comment letters were accepted by the agency after that date. Following the release of the draft EIS, a public meeting was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on September 4, 2003, to explain the NEPA process, to receive comments regarding the draft EIS, and to answer any questions related to the Proposed Action and alternatives. Agency responses to public comments are included in Appendix A of this document and are incorporated into the body of the final EIS where appropriate.

6.2 CONSULTATION

The lists contain the organizations, agencies, and individuals that were contacted or consulted during the scoping process and preparation of the draft EIS.

FEDERAL OFFICES

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

National Park Service (NPS)

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

STATE OFFICES

Utah County Commissioners

Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)

Utah Department of Environmental Quality (Divisions of Air Quality and Water Quality)

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining

State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)

LOCAL OFFICES

Duchesne County Commission

The Uintah County Public Lands Committee

Uinta Basin Association of Governments

Uintah County Commission

INDUSTRY

Coastal Oil and Gas Corporation

Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Lone Mountain Production Company

Phoenix Energy Inc.

Rosewood Resources

Texacoma Oil and Gas Resources

Utah Petroleum Association

Utah Resource Development Coordinating Committee

White River Resource Management, Inc.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Blue Ribbon Coalition

People for USA

Public Lands Advocacy Group

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Uintah Mountain Club

Utah Wildlife Federation

Utah Rivers Council

TRIBES

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

White Mesa Ute Tribe

Southern Ute Tribe

Ute Indian Tribe

Hopi Tribe

Navajo Nation

Eastern Shoshone Tribe

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation

Laguna Pueblo

Nambe Pueblo

Santa Clara Pueblo

Zia Pueblo

Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation

Acoma Pueblo (NAGPRA consultation only)

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